**Press On – With Prayer** (February 15, 2017)

**“When God Says No”**

Scripture Texts: Mark 14:32-41, Matt. 26:36-46 (NLT)

**Mark 15:32-41 (NLT)**

32 They went to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and Jesus said, “Sit here while I go and pray.” 33He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he became deeply troubled and distressed. 34He told them, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

35He went on a little farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by. 36“Abba, Father,” he cried out, “everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”

37Then he returned and found the disciples asleep. He said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Couldn’t you watch with me even one hour? 38Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

39Then Jesus left them again and prayed the same prayer as before. 40When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn’t keep their eyes open. And they didn’t know what to say.

41When he returned to them the third time, he said, “Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But no—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

**Matthew 26: 36-46**

36Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, “Sit here while I go over there to pray.” 37He took Peter and Zebedee’s two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. 38He told them, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

39He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”

40Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Couldn’t you watch with me even one hour? 41Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!”

42Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, “My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done.” 43When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn’t keep their eyes open.

44So he went to pray a third time, saying the same things again. 45Then he came to the disciples and said, “Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But look—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46Up, let’s be going. Look, my betrayer is here!”

**Review Questions**

1. What Jesus did when He was in distress (Mk. 14:32-34, Mt. 26:36-38)

a. What did Jesus do when he was anguished and distressed? (As evidenced by: “My soul is crushed with grief”)

b. Who did Jesus try to involve? Why? What purpose did the disciples serve? What good did it do to have them there? (“Stay here and keep watch with me”)

2. The Prayer of a distressed man (Mk. 14:35-38, Mt. 26:39-41)

a. How did Jesus address God? What is significant about this? With what was He struggling? For what did Jesus, the Son of God, ask?

 *(“My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me.”)*

b. What do the words of Jesus demonstrate? At what cost are these words spoken?

 *(“Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”)*

c. When Jesus returned to His friends and disciples, how did He find them? Why? What sad reality does Jesus point out? To whom does Jesus address these comments? Why?

 *“For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!”*

3. When pain persists, persist in prayer. (Mk. 14:39-40, Mt. 26:42-44)

a. How does Jesus address God? What does this demonstrate again? Why is this significant under these circumstances?

*“My Father…”*

b. For what is Jesus asking, even if it’s an indirect request? Why does He ask?

 *“If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it…”*

c. What does Jesus again demonstrate? How is this possible? What is Jesus actually saying?

*“ your will be done.”*

d. What had again happened to the disciples/friends of Jesus? How did Jesus respond to some discouraging results and realities? How did He respond to having to handle His intense pain and grief on His own?

*“He went to pray a third time., saying the same things again.”*

4. Responding When God Says No (Mk. 14:41, Mt. 26:45-46)

a. How did Jesus know that God the Father had said “no?” How did He respond?

*“Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest.”*

b. What did He choose when He knew that the answer was “no?” How did the actions that He took and the words that He spoke reflect His choice?

*“The time has come”*

*“Up, let’s be going. Look, my betrayer is here!”*

c. How did Jesus demonstrate trust and courage from this point on? How is that possible? What powered those attitudes and actions?

Application: (So What?)

5. How have you responded when God said no? How did you react, feel, and behave?

6. How will you follow the example of Jesus in the future when God says no? What can you put in place now to help you then?

7. Who will you have with you during such times? How are you building those relationships now?